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Duxbury Clipper

Chancery Dumped in Favor of New Software Program

By MATT SULLIVAN

Duxbury will replace the problem-plagued Chancery software program with a new student management system, Technology Director Gail Callahan announced at this month's School Committee meeting.

The schools will switch to an Internet-based application developed by X2 Development Corp., a Hingham software company. The new system should be live by the next school year.

According to Callahan, the reasons for the switch were the lack of support they had from Chancery and the new state requirement for submissions of EPIMS (Educators Professional Information Management System) starting October 1. Callahan said that Chancery doesn't have a venue for these types of submissions.

"This decision was made in unity by many, many people," said Callahan. "It was not a decision made in isolation, but as a community."

The decision came after the Chancery system put some students' futures on hold. A glitch in the system caused a one-month delay in colleges receiving students' transcripts this summer. The guidance department bore the brunt of this problem, having to manually calculate students' GPAs. A year before that, Chancery caused a delay with students' report cards.

At the March School Committee meeting, Callahan said the student management review team, which consists



Ling Wong and members of a community task force reviewing the school software package agreed that X2 is a better choice than the problem-plagued Chancery system.

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of teachers, administrators and school district staff, had voted to purchase another school management system, but hadn't received a recommendation by the community task force. On Wednesday, three members of the task force, including Malcolm Stone, Bob George and Ling Wong, said moving to X2 was the right move.

"You're basically paying as you go," said Wong, suggesting that time and money would be better spent on X2 instead of continually trying to fix Chancery.

According to Callahan, the committee went over the budget extensively and concluded that all the money was there for the switch.

"We reduced the amount of money in the operating budget and substituted it with alternative things such as funds for X2 software," said Business Manager Mickey McGonagle.

The schools don't intend to buy all the technology equipment they used to, said Callahan.

Callahan said they had meetings to determine how to merge the new platform and that it would start immediately.

"It's very intense," she said.

A meeting will be held this week in order to determine a timeline for the system switch.

School Committee members were supportive of the change.

"This was a mess. We all know what a mess it was and it looks like we're on track now to get something going for next year," said School Committee member John Magnarelli.

In other School Committee news -

- The Youth Risk Behavior group is conducting a survey on April 30, with grades 7-12 to see if there are changes or shifts in student behavior. Parents will receive a letter in the mail.

- The WEB Program, or "Where Everyone Belongs," will be implemented for the 2007/2008 school year. WEB creates a culture for directing transitions between middle school and high school. Sarah Shannon, the assistant principal of the middle school, is helping out with the program.

- The Nutrition Act has been revised and intends to promote better nutrition by restricting certain types of foods and drinks from being sold in school.

- The Charles Elliot Scholarship will award \$500 to a graduating senior who shows leadership above and beyond his/her peers. Charles Elliot was the principal of Alden school.

- A day trip to NYC will take place on May 6. The trip will visit sites and tour the United Nations.